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EG&G ROCKY FLATS



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February 11, 1992

92-RF-1066

Robert M. Nelson, Jr. Manager DOE, RFO

Attn: F. R. Lockhart

EVALUATING THE PYROPHORICITY OF URANIUM CONTAMINATION IN OU 2 - JEE-0089-92

The Environmental Management Department of EG&G Rocky Flats, Inc. is requesting assistance from the Los Alamos Technology Office in evaluating the pyrophoricity of uranium contamination in Operable Unit No. 2 (OU 2).

The proposed Interim Remedial Action Plan for OU 2 includes an in-situ, vacuum enhanced, vapor extraction treatment to recover volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the soil. A concern has developed that uranium contamination in the soil could cause a problem due to the potential for pyrophoric reactions during the in-situ treatment. D. Clark (LANL) recently investigated a similar concern involving plutonium contamination in the area of the 903 Pad. This investigation also accumulated information concerning uranium in the OU 2 area, but the uranium information was not included in the final report. We are requesting that D. Clark evaluate the potential for uranium pyrophoricity during the proposed OU 2 Interim Remedial Action, and provide a written summary of the evaluation and conclusions.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact M. J. Harris at 273-6141 or T. C. Greengard at 273-6073, both of EM's Environmental Research and Technology.

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Orig. and 1 cc - R. M. Nelson, Jr.

TO LTR NO

cc: S. R. Grace